

I am wholly opposed to any loosening of current restrictions on media ownership. It's clear that the relaxation of radio station ownership regulations has led to a decline in diversity and quality in radio broadcasting across the country. More of the same can be expected if regulations are further relaxed, and the effect will be even more detrimental to the public interest. Current affairs programming on television (all programming, really) and in newspapers has become insipid enough under the current rules. Allowing massive consolidation to occur is a recipe for an even more limited debate on issues of public policy. The US already has the most limited range of public debate in the developed world; for all the criticism of heavy regulation in Europe, their media landscape is far more vibrant and devoted to the public interest. Perhaps regulation isn't such a bad thing after all.

I have so little faith in American democracy any more that I doubt my or the thousands of other public comments you will receive on this topic will have an effect on your ultimate decision, which is almost certain to be approval of looser regulations. Congratulations in advance for putting yet another nail in the coffin containing American representative democracy.